



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**INDEPENDENCE, KC MEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION
OF FIREARM, AMMUNITION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man and a Kansas City, Mo., man were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

* **Craig J. Crook**, 24, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Aug. 25, 2004, **Crook** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Crook** admitted that he was in possession of a Dan Wesson .357-caliber revolver on Sept. 20, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Crook** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for assault and armed criminal action.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Dwayne A. Thomas**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole for being felon in possession of ammunition.

On June 29, 2004, **Thomas** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of several firearms. By pleading guilty, **Thomas** admitted he was in possession of 257 rounds of .357-caliber ammunition, 29 rounds of .380-caliber ammunition, 395 rounds of .22-caliber

ammunition, 20 rounds of 9 mm ammunition, and 15 rounds of 20-gauge shotgun shells on April 15, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Thomas** has three previous criminal felony convictions for assault, burglary and driving while intoxicated.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow